



# Arkansas Battlefield Update

Spring, 2004 Volume 12, Number 1

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## Non-profit status top priority, ACWHT chairmen declare

Completion of the paperwork to establish non-profit status for the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation will be the top priority for the common efforts of the ACWHT groups in 2004, it was decided at the groups' annual summit meeting.

The meeting was held Feb. 21, 2004, in Little Rock. Those in attendance were Jerry Lawrence, Elizabeth Gaines, Edgar Colvin and Mark Kalkbrenner, SEACHWT; Charles Durnette and Tom Ezell, CACWHT; M. Ray Jones, Terry Bandy and W. Danny Honnoll,  
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*Costumed reenactors prepare to carry the remains of six Confederate soldiers killed at the Battle of Helena to a new burial site at the Helena Confederate Cemetery. Article on Page 4.*

## NWACWHT plans meeting at Harrison

By John C. Scott  
NWACWHT Chair

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 27, 2004, for the next meeting of the NWACWHT. The meeting will be at the Western Sizzling Restaurant in Harrison, Ark., and will start at 6:30 p.m. If you wish to eat, the cost for the buffet will be \$7.99. Let them know at the door that you are with the Civil War

Heritage Trail and they will direct you to the meeting room. At the meeting I would like to develop a list of projects that the NWACWHT can work on in that area.

In other Civil War-related topics in north-west Arkansas, Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park will host a Memorial Day Tribute on May 31, 2004, near the historic Borden House. Everyone is welcome to pay their respects to those who gave their lives for this  
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## LR statue undergoing restoration

By Tom Ezell  
CACWHT Chair

March was a busy month for the Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail, as better weather and the approach of spring made it much more pleasant to spruce up the various sites in our area.

On March 4, the "Capital Guards" statue at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History was removed from the pedestal outside the museum where it has stood for 93 years, and sent to a conservator for cleaning and restoration. Exposed to all the elements and a few tornadoes over the past century, the statue had also been vandalized on a few occasions, and was suffering from what conservators call "bronze disease," a type of accelerated corrosion.

Bob Marti and Marianne Russell of Russell-Marti Conservation Services came to Little Rock this month to transport the Capital Guard monument to their laboratory to begin conservation work. The Capital Guard monument was safely removed from its pedestal, and is in California, Mo., for cleaning, conservation and restoration. Following completion of this work, the statue will be  
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## For information

### General Information

Mark Christ (501) 324-9880  
mark@arkansasheritage.org

The Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail is a network of regional private, nonprofit, volunteer organizations seeking to identify, protect, interpret and promote Arkansas properties related to the state's Civil War experience. General guidance for the groups is provided by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

### Northwest Arkansas CWHT

John Scott (Pea Ridge)  
(479) 451-8122  
John\_C\_Scott@nps.gov  
Robert Still (Harrison)  
(479) 741-5443

The Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Benton, Carroll, Boone, Marion, Washington, Madison, Newton, Searcy and Van Buren counties.

### West Central Arkansas CWHT

Tom Wing (479) 783-3961  
Tom\_Wing@nps.gov  
The West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Crawford, Sebastian, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Yell, Pope and Scott counties.

### Southwest Arkansas CWHT

Jim Hale (501) 760-2566  
[jim.hale@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jim.hale@sbcglobal.net)  
The Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Polk, Montgomery, Garland, Howard, Pike, Clark, Hot Spring, Grant, Dallas, Sevier, Little River, Hempstead, Nevada, Ouachita, Calhoun, Miller, Lafayette, Columbia and Union counties.

### Southeast Arkansas CWHT

Mark Kalkbrenner (870) 247-2394  
captklark@hotmail.com  
The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Jefferson, Arkansas, Phillips, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Bradley, Drew, Ashley and Chicot counties.

### Central Arkansas CWHT

Tom Ezell (501) 961-1937  
tomezell@aristotle.net  
The Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Conway, Perry, Saline, Faulkner, Pulaski, White and Lonoke counties.

### Northeast Arkansas CWHT

Danny Honnoll (870) 935-9830  
wdhonnoll@prodigy.net  
The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Trail serves Baxter, Fulton, Izard, Stone, Cleburne, Independence, Sharp, Randolph, Clay, Lawrence, Greene, Jackson, Craighead, Poinsett, Mississippi, Woodruff, Cross, Crittenden, Prairie, Monroe, Lee and St. Francis counties.

# Committees formed to work on ACWHT Foundation

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NEACWHT; John C. Scott, NWACWHT; Jim Hale, Tom Beam and Paul Beard, SWACWHT; Tom Dupree and Jack Danielson, Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, and Mark Christ, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. The WCACWHT was not represented at the meeting.

Christ reported on the following:

\* The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the AHPP have entered into a cooperative agreement that will allow placement of wayside interpretive panels at AGFC boat docks with Civil War connections

\* The Civil War Preservation Trust is interested in and/or working with Civil War sites at Jacksonville, Helena and Jenkins' Ferry

\* The four-state driving tour map (Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma) is progressing, with request for proposals going out to designers this spring

\* The American Battlefield Protection Program will meet in Nashville, Tenn., in April in conjunction with the CWPT.

Each of the CWHT chairmen present gave a short report on activities in their area.

There was extensive discussion about the non-profit paperwork for the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail Foundation and how to complete it, including establishing a budget, fundraising activities, a membership base for the foundation and lobbying.

Honnoll moved and Ezell seconded a motion to establish a budget committee to set up a three-year rolling budget for the Foundation. Passed unanimously.

Hale moved and Beam seconded a motion to appoint Honnoll, Ezell, Kalkbrenner and Christ (ex-officio) to the budget committee. Passed unanimously. The committee members set a target date of April 1 for completion of their task.

Honnoll moved and Beam seconded a motion that each CWHT group will pay annual dues of \$50 each to the Foundation to cover basic operating expenses. Passed unanimously.

Bandy moved and Honnoll seconded that the dues will be due annually in January. Passed unanimously.

The group then discussed the goals established at the last summit meeting. The group had not had an opportunity to explore battlefield fundraising marches in Arkansas. Ezell moved and Bandy seconded a motion to form a standing committee for reenactment-based fundraising with Tom Wing to serve as chairman and including Ezell, Beam and Kalkbrenner as members. Passed unanimously. John Scott updated the group on efforts to establish a website for the ACWHT Foundation.

The group then established the following 2004 goals for the ACWHT groups to pursue in common:

1) Complete 501 ( c ) 3 paperwork for

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## Each trail will establish its priority projects for the next three years, which will help in establishing a budget for the Foundation

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the Foundation

- 2) Each trail will establish its priority projects for the next three years, which will help in establishing a budget for the Foundation
- 3) Establish an ACWHT Foundation website with an associated e-newsletter
- 4) Get a Dunn and Bradstreet number for the Foundation (Dupree volunteered to do so)
- 5) Establish a bank account for the Foundation (Kalkbrenner volunteered to do so).

The group voted to keep in contact via e-mail regarding progress on the above goals and to set the next ACWHT summit meeting for Feb. 13, 2005. The group adjourned at approximately 1 p.m. on a motion from Kalkbrenner.

# Fundraising continues for 'Guards' statue; CACWHT members help out on Park Day

**Continued from Page 1.**

returned to Little Rock and re-installed on its pedestal. Unveiling of the restored monument is scheduled for May 15, 2004.

Conservation of the statue was contracted at \$35,000. The museum still needs to raise approximately \$7,500 to cover conservation costs, and fundraising efforts are still ongoing. Any amount you or your organization can give is important and appreciated, and will help preserve this important and historic monument. To donate to the preservation of the Capital Guards monument, contact Stephan McAteer of the MacArthur Museum at (501) 376-4602.

More than 10,000 armed conflicts occurred during the American Civil War - an enormous number of battles that often complicates preservation efforts. Recognizing the problem, in 1993 Congress directed the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) to prioritize these conflicts, ranking the struggles according to military significance and status of preservation. Using these criteria, CWSAC identified 384 battles in 26 states as priority battlefields. A site's

listing and rating on the CWSAC's priority list is a key factor in its eligibility for funding and competitive grants for preservation efforts awarded by the American Battlefield Protection Program.

Early in March, the Civil War Preservation Trust announced its annual list of America's ten most endangered battlefields, along with a "second tier" of 15 additional sites that were next most vulnerable, making the CWPT's list of the 25 most endangered battlefields in the United States. Reed's Bridge in Jacksonville was listed in this second tier of the "top 25" sites, greatly increasing the likelihood of assistance from the Trust and other preservation organizations in providing additional funding for preserving key areas of this battlefield. Reed's Bridge, located on Arkansas Highway 161 at the Bayou Meto bridge, was a key engagement during the Union advance on Little Rock in August 1863. Although small parts of the battlefield are currently protected, the site's proximity to I-440, combined with sprawl emanating from Jacksonville and Little Rock,

threaten to engulf the core area of the battleground.

On March 27, the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society observed the CWPT's "Park Day." Now in its eighth year, Park Day is an annual hands-on preservation event created by the CWPT. Volunteers gather at designated Civil War sites to help with routine repairs and maintenance. Activities can range from raking leaves and hauling trash to painting signs and building trails. At Reed's Bridge, members of the Society turned out to pick up trash at the park site, as well as complete the placement of split rail fencing around one of the Society's properties on Highway 161 ultimately intended for use as a visitors and interpretive center.

All requests for the Little Rock Campaign driving tour brochures should be made to the City of Little Rock Convention and Visitor's Bureau, P.O. Box 3232, Little Rock, AR 72203. Copies may be obtained by writing the Bureau or calling (501) 370-3290, attention Cathy Cerrato.

The CACWHT meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month jointly with the Civil War Roundtable of Little Rock at the John Gould Fletcher Library at H and Buchanan streets in Little Rock. The Civil War Roundtable programs are excellent and guests are encouraged and welcome to attend. CACWHT volunteers are very much needed to help with projects, including ongoing maintenance of the existing nine interpretive panels located in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Brownsville, Jacksonville and Scott. For more information, call Tom Ezell at (501) 682-0876 or (501) 961-1937.

For more information on the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society, call Tommy Dupree at (501) 833-0265. The Society's meetings are held each month at 12:30 p.m. at the new Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce building at 200 Dupree Drive, and are open to the public. Donations can be made, and checks made payable, to the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society, 600 Lynx Lane, Jacksonville, AR 72076.

## CWPT includes two state sites in report on 'at risk' battlefields

Two Arkansas battlefields have been designated as being "at risk" by the Civil War Preservation Trust in its annual report of the 25 most-endangered battlefields. According to the CWPT's announcement of the list on the organization's web site, they are:

### **Helena, Arkansas**

*July 4, 1863*

The battle of Helena was the result of a desperate attempt by Confederate forces to regain that strategic town. Although the site is interpreted by informational signage, most of the battlefield has been engulfed by a growing community. Four Union batteries connected with the defense of Helena remain in existence, but only one is protected from development.

### **Reed's Bridge, Arkansas**

*August 27, 1863*

Reed's Bridge was a key engagement during the Union advance on Little Rock. Although small parts of the battlefield are protected, the site's proximity to I-440, combined with sprawl emanating from Jacksonville and Little Rock, threaten to engulf the battleground.

# Six Confederates reinterred at Helena

*From the Heber Springs Sun-Times*

The General Patrick R. Cleburne Memorial Service, an annual celebration of the Civil War general for which Cleburne County is named, was of special importance this year. Last Saturday the remains of six Confederate soldiers killed in the July 4, 1863, battle of Helena were reburied in Helena's Confederate Cemetery.

The reburial was conducted following the Patrick Cleburne memorial service, held annually in the Confederate Cemetery which is part of the historic Maple Hill Cemetery in Helena.

"This is the first time in seven years that the public has been able to witness the actual reburial of Confederate remains," according to Arkansas Sons of Confederate Veterans Division Commander Danny Honnoll of Jonesboro. "The last time was at the White Sulphur Springs Cemetery in Pine Bluff," when the SCV and Arkansas reenactors reburied an unknown soldier.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans were recognized as the next of kin by the state of Arkansas and given the task of burying the six that fell at Helena.

The remains of the "Fagan Six" were found in the fall of 2002 when an area hunter came across what appeared to be human skeletal remains in a heavily wooded tract within the Helena city limits.

John House, the Arkansas Archeological Survey's station archeologist at University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, visited the grave site in December 2002. House was accompanied by the interested parties, including archeologist John Connoway of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (a native of Helena), Mark Christ of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Bill Gurley of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, an avocational Civil War historian, and Jessica Crawford of the Archaeological Conservancy.

They observed that the road where the remains were found, on a steep hillside, was eroding badly. In this light, House and the others, along with the owner of the property, agreed that the grave should



*Reenactors hold a nineteenth-century style funeral service as six of Gen. James F. Fagan's men who died at Helena are reburied in the Confederate Cemetery.*

be excavated and the remains should be recovered and later reburied in a proper cemetery. The salvage excavation at the grave site was carried out from May 6-8. The work was directed by House with the assistance of Kate Wright, Arkansas Archeological Survey Station Assistant at Henderson State University. Connoway, Gurley, Crawford and Christ participated in the work as did Jay Mitchell of Coldwater, Miss.

Exposing the bones in the grave, the team found portions of at least six adult skeletons. The individuals appear to have been hurriedly thrown or rolled into the grave, one on top of another. One of the skeletons was face-down, another was lying on its side, and in some cases the arms and legs were sprawled out to the side. House speculates that the fallen soldiers were buried by Federal troops after the Confederate forces had withdrawn.

Based on the location where they were found on the Helena battle field, the soldiers most likely served in either the 35th Arkansas Infantry Regiment or Hawthorne's Arkansas Regiment of Gen. James F. Fagan's Division under the command of Lieutenant General

Theophilus H. Holmes.

The remains were found near the site of Battery D (located on the old military road) held by the Federals. The Confederates suffered heavy casualties during the attack on this artillery site on the south side of Helena.

Honnoll emceed both services. Capt. Mark Kalkbrenner of the 1st Arkansas Infantry Confederate was in command of the reenactors honor guard at the Cleburne memorial and during the reburial. Bobbie Barnett of Jonesboro reenacted the part of a grieving widow at the services and placed flowers on the graves of the "Fagan Six."

Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Military Order Stars and Bars, living historians and reenactors from five states took part in the Cleburne memorial and reburial of the "Fagan Six."

Following the disinterment, the human skeletal remains were transferred to the Arkansas Archeological Survey (AAS) Coordinating Office in Fayetteville for forensic study. The AAS prepared the remains for reburial in the common grave at the Helena Confederate Cemetery.

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# Budget request includes \$5 million for CW sites

In his Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 budget request to Congress, President George W. Bush included \$5 million in federal matching grants for Civil War battlefield preservation. The \$5 million provision is more than double the White House's previous request of \$2 million in FY 2004.

"We are extremely pleased with the

## Burial site near that of Cleburne

**Continued from Page 4.**

Terry Bandy of Bay and Philip Priest of Jonesboro made a wooden coffin for the remains to rest in. It is decorated with Confederate belt buckles on the handles to show honor to these men of Arkansas. It is about six feet long, two feet wide, and one and a half feet deep. The remains were individually wrapped in burial cloth and placed in the coffin for burial.

Edgar Colvin of Pine Bluff prepared monuments to the "Fagan Six," which were placed on the day of the reburial.

James Tappan, great-grandson of Confederate General James C. Tappan of Helena, of the Maple Hill Cemetery, helped locate a proper place in the Confederate Cemetery. Roger Hooker of the Roller-Citizens Funeral Home assisted Tappan. The grave is located just north of General Cleburne's monument.

Maple Hill Cemetery is located on the north edge of Helena, at the point where Crowley's Ridge touches the Mississippi River.

Bill Gurley of Little Rock was the keynote speaker at both services. Commander Jerry Lawrence of Pine Bluff served as the greeter to start the Cleburne service.

The Cleburne memorial was sponsored this year by the Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne Camp #1433 of Pine Bluff, Col. Robert C. Newton Camp #197, and the Col. Robert G. Shaver Camp #1655 of Jonesboro.

For more information about the memorials contact Danny Honnoll of Jonesboro at (870) 935-9830.

President's decision to increase funding for battlefield preservation during a tight fiscal year," Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) President James Lighthizer said. "Today's announcement further underscores the Administration's commitment to protecting our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields."

The President's budget request sets aside \$5 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program. If agreed to by Congress, this would represent the most money ever available in a single year for the program. Congress has previously appropriated a total of \$21 million for the program during the past six fiscal years.

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program was first established by Congress in 1998 and was formally authorized as part of the Civil War Battlefield

Preservation Act of 2002. It provides federal grant money for Civil War battlefield land outside National Park Service (NPS) boundaries. Nearly 11,000 acres of high-priority battlefield land in 15 states has been saved as a result of the program.

The success of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program is primarily due to its non-federal match requirement, which encourages state and private investment in Civil War battlefields. The grants are competitively awarded by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), an arm of NPS. Acquisition is from willing sellers only. Among the battlefield sites that have benefited from the program are Antietam, Md.; Bentonville, N.C.; Chancellorsville, Va.; Fort Donelson, Tenn.; and Harpers Ferry, W.V.

## Jenkins' Ferry seminar slated at Saline County Library

On Saturday, April 24, the Saline County Library at 1800 Smithers Dr. in Benton will host a seminar on the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry, which was fought on April 30, 1864, in what was then Saline and Hot Spring counties. The battle was part of the Camden Expedition.

The seminar will begin at 9 a.m. with registration and from 9:25-10:30 Dr. Thomas A. DeBlack of Arkansas Tech University will present "An Overview of the Camden Expedition." DeBlack is the author of the Civil War book *With Fire and Sword*, recently published by the University of Arkansas Press. A break will be held from 10:30-10:45 from 10:45-11:45 Tom Ezell, a Civil War historian and re-enactor, will present "The Battle... The Commanders... The Soldiers of Jenkins Ferry." Lunch will be on your own from 11:45-1:00 p.m. The afternoon sessions will begin at 1-2 p.m. with "The Legacy of the Battle," presented by Anthony Rushing. Rushing is a Saline County Civil War historian who

wrote *Ranks of Honor*, a book on the 11th Arkansas Infantry Regiment, and *Along the Road to Glory*, a book about the Confederate veterans of Saline County. There will be a break from 2:00-2:15 p.m. and from 2:15-3:00 "From Mini Balls to Pocket Watches" will be presented by Robert Jones and Quin Baber, artifact collectors. The program will end at 3 p.m. DeBlack will have some of his books available for sale at the seminar. The program is free to the public. You may call the library at (501) 778-4766 for more information.

The *Arkansas Battlefield Update* newsletter is available online at the AHPP website at [arkansaspreservation.org](http://arkansaspreservation.org).

# SWACWHT leads documentation of area forts

By Jim Hale  
SWACWHT Chair

On February 26, members of the SWACWHT joined Mark Christ and Tony Feaster of the AHPP to document several Confederate earthworks and fortifications in the region. Keenan Williams of Hope provided his vast knowledge of the area, and along with Jim Hale of Hot Springs, escorted the group to two excellent fortifications near the Red River.

One of these forts overlooked the Fulton to Springhill Road, while the other protected the Fulton to Washington Road. It appears that one of the forts was designed for a two-gun battery, while the other would hold three guns. An old road bed seems to connect the two forts, which are perhaps a quarter mile apart.

After surveying the entire earthworks with a GPS system, the group moved south to the region near an area of the Red River, south of Springhill. There they surveyed and marked a long line of earthworks that connect three separate fortifications in that area.

Old period maps of both areas helped confirm the locations of these earthworks, which are in remarkable condition after some 140 years.

The previous day, Christ and Feaster had surveyed the Confederate cemetery at Rondo.

Information is being collected on sites along the lower Ouachita River in Ouachita and Union counties for an upcoming similar project.

An interesting seminar on the 140th Anniversary of the Battle of Jenkins Ferry has been scheduled to take place at the Saline County Library in Benton from 9:00-3:00 on Saturday, April 24.

Work is still progressing on the pur-



*Fortification remnant near Red River in southwest Arkansas.*

chase of part of the Jenkins' Ferry battleground from International Paper.

We are hopeful that will be concluded in the near future, and will report it to you.

## SEACWHT fielding requests for markers throughout region

By Mark Kalkbrenner  
SEACWHT Chair

As usual, the Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail has been busy researching, locating and erecting markers around our region.

While much of the work continues at Marks' Mills and White Sulphur Springs, we are beginning to get some interest from other areas. Requests are coming in for markers at various locations.

Our biggest project thus far this year was preparing for the reburial at Helena of the Fagan Six. The markers for the

grave site were engraved by Edgar Colvin. After the service, we placed a capstone on the grave with a little information about the Fagan Six being killed on July 4, 1863, at the Battle of Helena. In the near future we will be placing a government Veterans Administration marker that says "Unknown Confederate Soldiers."

Several sites in the region participated in the annual Park Day sponsored by the Civil War Trust and the History Channel.

Our next meeting will be held in July, site and time to be announced.

### Correction

The front page of the Winter 2003 Arkansas Battlefield Update identified it as being the Summer, 2003 issue, Vol. 11, Number 2. It actually was Vol. 11, Number 4.

### Mark your calendar!

**Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting**  
10 a.m. Saturday, May 1, Chalk Bluff Natural Area, St. Francis

**Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting**  
7 p.m., fourth Tuesday of each month,

John Gould Fletcher Branch Library, Little Rock

**Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting**  
July, time and location to be announced

**Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting**  
Time and location to be announced

**West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting**  
5 p.m. Saturday, April 17, Fort Smith National Historic Site

**Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting**  
6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 27, Western Sizzlin Restaurant, Harrison

# NEACWHT helps with Jacksonport flag event

By *Danny Honnoll*  
*NEACWHT Chair*

Our group has been very busy over the past few months. Some of our group took part in the reburial of the "Fagan Six" at Helena, the Cleburne Memorial and the unveiling of the "Jackson Guards" flag at Jacksonport.

Jimmy Stevens of Trumann has received approval from the owner of the land for placement of a marker at the Old Water Wheel just west of the battle site of Martin's Creek and north of Morgan's Mill. The Sharp County Historical Society has agreed to finance the marker. We are getting estimates from two marker companies and hope to place the marker sometime this year – the 140th anniversary of the battles of Martin's Creek and Morgan's Mill.

Stevens also has been working on moving the 5th Arkansas Infantry Civil War Marker at Pineville, Ark. The monument was placed where Camp Cold Springs was located. The monument was moved in November from a hard-to-reach place to the front yard of Lester Bledsoe, the man who owned the land where the marker rested for years. Bill Lee, the Cross County judge, is working on moving the monument to the Mount Zion Cemetery so that the public can see it. Since our last newsletter Mr. Bledsoe has passed away and we are waiting awhile before contacting relatives about the monument movement to the cemetery.

On Feb. 22, Ray Jones, Terry Bandy and Danny Honnoll attended the unveiling of the "Jackson Guards" flag at Jacksonport State Park and Museum. Mark Ballard, the Jacksonport State Park superintendent, and his staff worked very hard on a successful ceremony of the unveiling of the "Jackson Guards" flag.

According to Ballard, "During the fall of 2001 the park was contacted by Dr. Edward Thackston of Nashville, Tenn., a descendent of Samuel Sydney Gause, who accepted the flag in 1861. Dr. Thackston began the campaign to raise funds to repair the battered flag. He received \$6,500 of the \$12,500 needed to



restore it from the Thackston Family Foundation and the Adams Family Foundation, led by another Gause descendent, and another Gause cousin. The remaining funds were raised through donations from Jackson County citizens and the Jackson County Historical Society."

The NEACWHT and Ballard are going to schedule an event some time this year while the "Jackson Guards" flag is on display. Another activity planned this year is a Civil War encampment planned for October 9-10 that will include the reenactment of the flag presentation ceremony and the boarding of the "Guards" onto the Mary Patterson steamboat. For further information on this special exhibit, contact Ballard or Donna Bentley at Jacksonport State Park, 205 Avenue St., Newport, AR 72112. Phone: (870) 523-2143, mark.ballard@mail.state.ar.us or donna.bentley@mail.state.ar.us.

NEACWHT members also participated in the Civil War Preservation Trust's 2004 Park Day, where sites on the Civil War Discovery Trail recruit volunteers to help restore local Civil War battlefields and parks. Restoration tasks included mending fences, picking up trash, building trails and painting signs. Park Day is a great idea for extra credit or community service hours. The 2004 motto was, "Honor the Past...Preserve for the Future." On March 27, Ed Dudley, Doyle Yearta, Bobbie Barnett, Dale Barnett and

Danny Honnoll took part in the Civil War Preservation Trust by cleaning up three different sites in northeast Arkansas.

Plans were made for the next meeting, set for Chalk Bluff on May 1 and 2, 2004. The NEACWHT will help sponsor a living history/reenactment of the Battle of Chalk Bluff. This will mark the 141st Anniversary of the Battle of Chalk Bluff.

More than 75 people attended our meeting last year at Chalk Bluff.

On Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m., reenactments are scheduled to be on the Dalton Farm, which is just south of the Chalk Bluff Natural Area Park. Other events are still being planned and will be announced at a later date. There are no registration fees for reenactors. Walk-ons must be at the site and registered two hours before any listed event. Artillery contact is Delbert Hughes, phone (870)598-3942, email: dhughes@piggott.net; the infantry contact is Capt Daniel Holder, phone (870) 239-9438, email: dholder@grnco.net, or Danny Honnoll, phone (870)935-9830, email: WDHONNOLL@prodigy.net.

We are still working on markers and pamphlets for Fitzhugh Woods, Jacksonport and Crittenden County projects. Hopefully we can report more in the next newsletter.

Plan on attending the next meeting at Chalk Bluff on May 1. We will meet at the privation in the middle of the park at 10 a.m. See you there!

# WCACWHT reevaluating battle site status

By Tom Wing  
WCACWHT Chair

The West Central Civil War Heritage Trail has been working on many projects, among them the driving brochures for Fort Smith and Van Buren. These brochures will help interested visitors to both cities identify and visit local sites with significant Civil War stories. Work is progressing and we hope to have them finished this spring.

WCACWHT representatives also met with a team from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program to reevaluate the National Register status of Massard Prairie. The meeting included an intensive tour of the property and outlying areas of importance surrounding the action of 1864. Contacts with local land owners were discussed to give the site more leverage to enlist register status. More details will follow in a future

Update. The consensus was that with additional and/or the possibility of historic easements, the site could qualify. City officials are very excited about these findings.

On April 16 and 17 the Arkansas Historical Association will conduct its annual meeting and will include a session on the Civil War in western Arkansas and Fort Smith. Justin Douglas, chairman of the Massard Prairie Battlefield Com-

mission, Frank Arey from the Department of Arkansas Heritage and Tom Wing, chairman of the WCACWHT and a park ranger at Fort Smith National Historic Site, will present a session on April 17 discussing the war in western Arkansas. The next meeting of the WCACWHT will be at 5 p.m. on April 17 at Fort Smith National Historic Site; call (479) 783-3961 for details.

## Prairie Grove State Park plans event

**Continued from Page 1.**

nation. Besides living history by members of the 11th Missouri Infantry, the event features a free concert and appropriate patriotic addresses. Refreshments are available at a small cost. Admission is free. For further information contact Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, P.O.

Box 306 Prairie Grove, AR 72753  
Ph: (479) 846-2990,  
prairiegrove@arkansas.com.

Pea Ridge National Military Park received a Unilever Discretionary Grant for \$25,000. The grant will allow the park to restore the historic fencing in the Leetown Battlefield area.



Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program  
1500 Tower Building  
323 Center Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 324-9880

info@arkansaspreservation.org  
www.arkansaspreservation.org

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Other DAH agencies are the Arts Council, the Old State House Museum, the Historic Arkansas Museum, the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and the Natural Heritage Commission.

PRSRSTD  
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Little Rock, AR 72201  
Permit No. 2654